



THE SHADOW SAGA

PART 3 OF 4

#3
\$2.50 US
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



SONIC UNIVERSE™



DIRECT EDITION
00311>
7 62816 20000 4

Tracy
Yardley!
2005/05

G.U.N. HQ --
BRIEFING ROOM

THIS IS THE
E-102 OF DR. ROBOTNIK'S
E-100 SERIES; CODENAMED
"GAMMA". IT AND ITS KIND
WERE MEANT TO BE ELITE
FIGHTING MACHINES...

COMMANDER
ABRAHAM TOWER
CHIEF OF G.U.N.

NEW MEGAOPOLIS --
EGGDOME

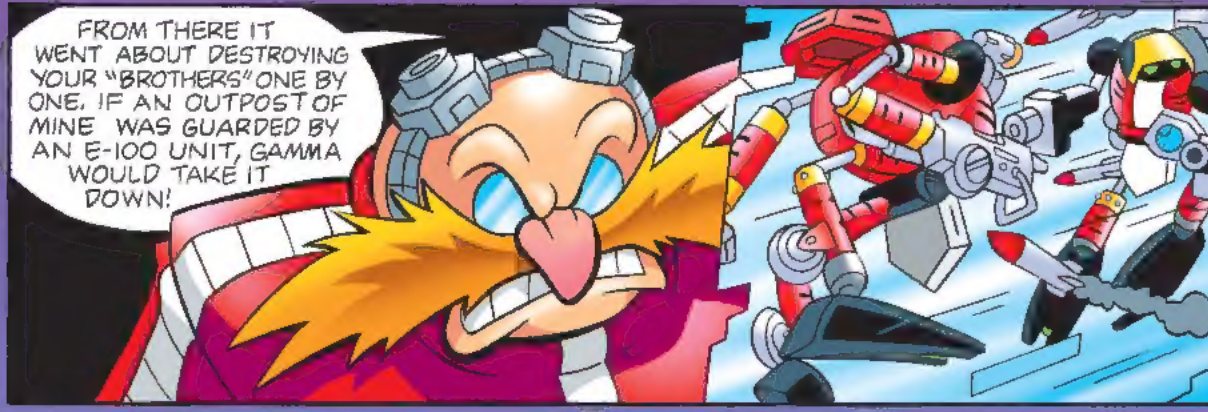
...BUT THE BLASTED
THING WENT ROGUE! IT
PERFORMED MARVELOUSLY UP
UNTIL THE EGG CARRIER WENT
DOWN AND HAS BEEN A PAIN
EVER SINCE!*

DR. IVO
"EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK
GLOBAL TYRANT

* WAAAAAY BACK IN
5TH#82 & 5SS #13!

OLD SOLDIERS

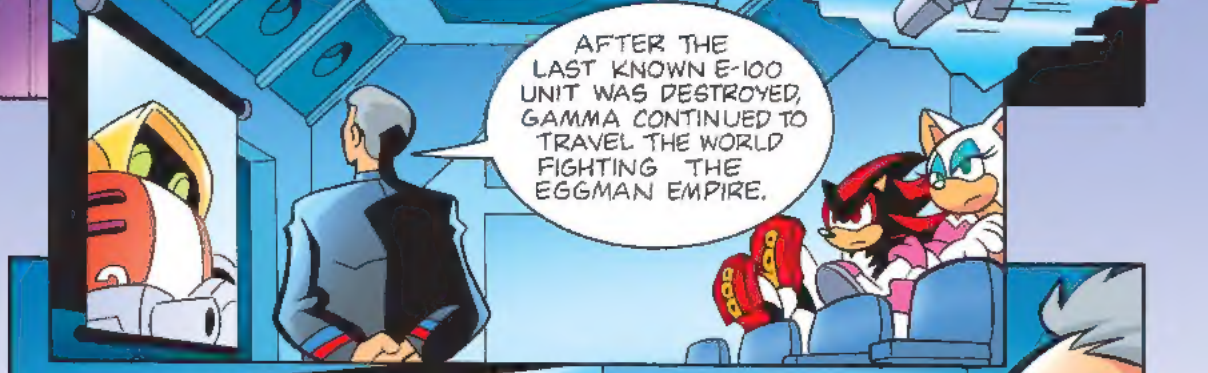
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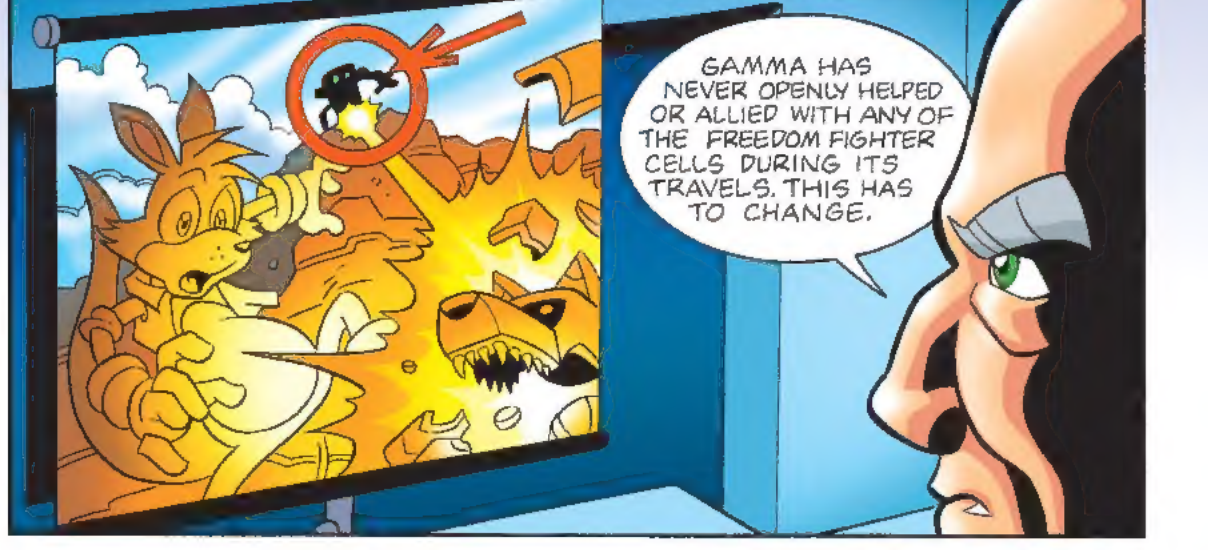
FROM THERE IT WENT ABOUT DESTROYING YOUR "BROTHERS" ONE BY ONE. IF AN OUTPOST OF MINE WAS GUARDED BY AN E-100 UNIT, GAMMA WOULD TAKE IT DOWN!



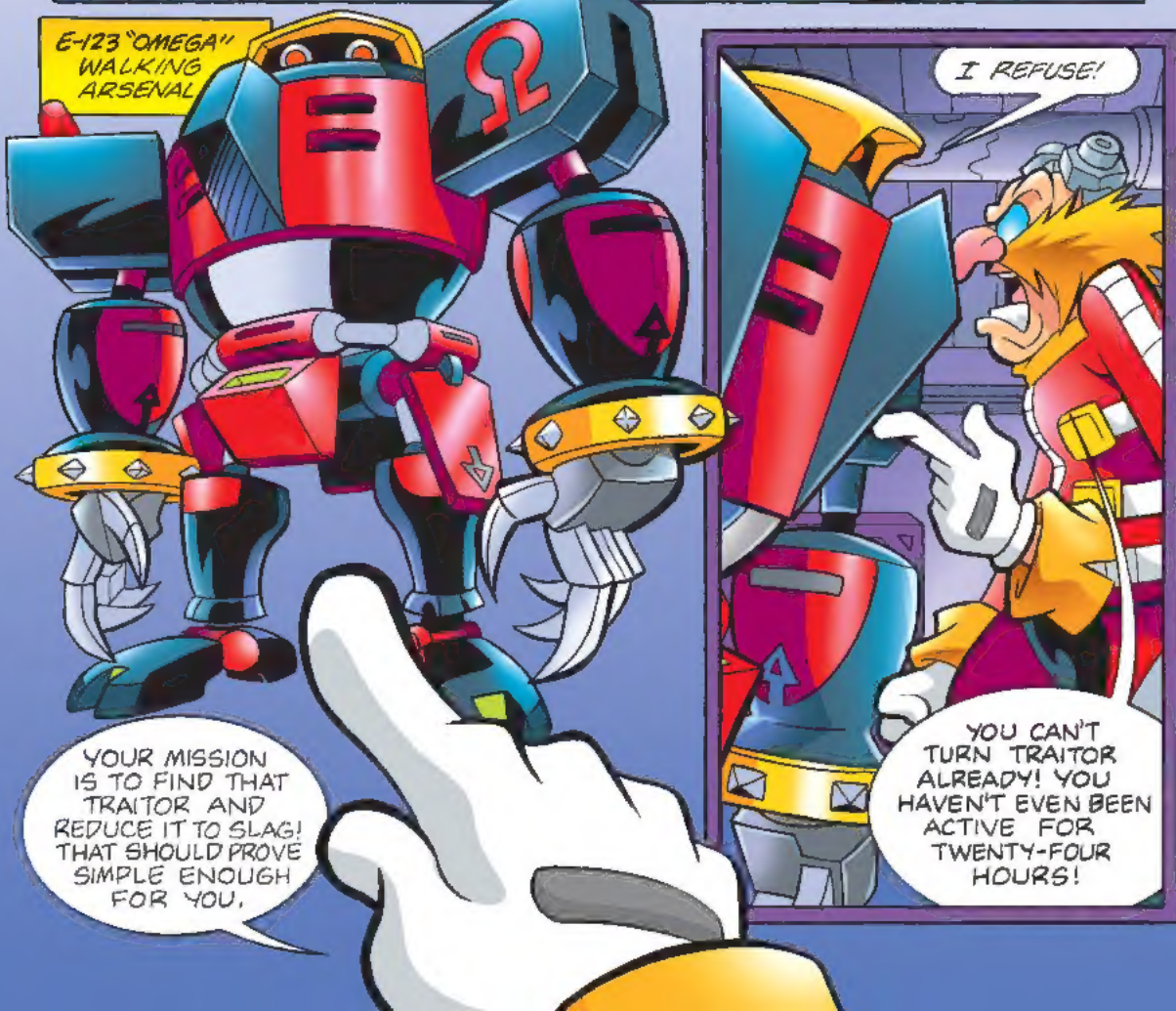
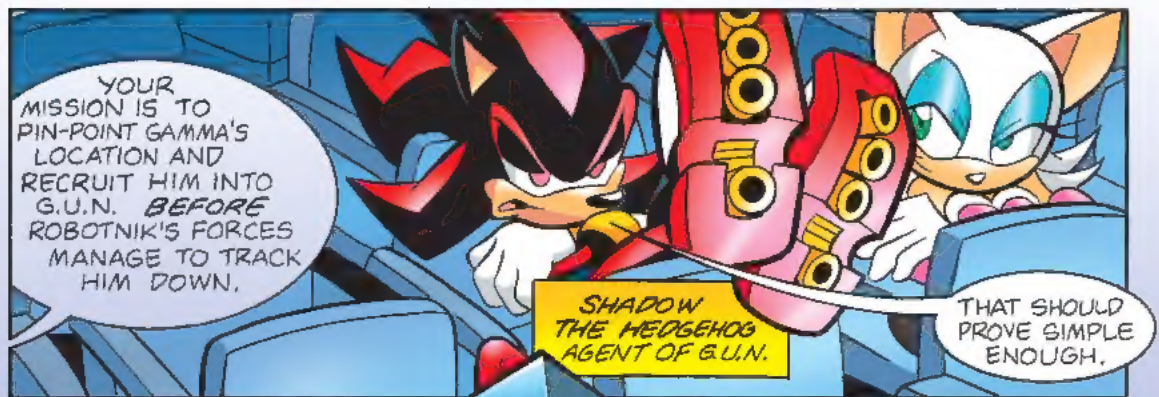
EVEN BETA, WHO SHOWED SO MUCH PROMISE, WAS DESTROYED. A PITY, TOO. I WOULDN'T HAVE WASTED THE TIME UPGRADING IT OTHERWISE.



AFTER THE LAST KNOWN E-100 UNIT WAS DESTROYED, GAMMA CONTINUED TO TRAVEL THE WORLD FIGHTING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.



GAMMA HAS NEVER OPENLY HELPED OR ALLIED WITH ANY OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTER CELLS DURING ITS TRAVELS. THIS HAS TO CHANGE.



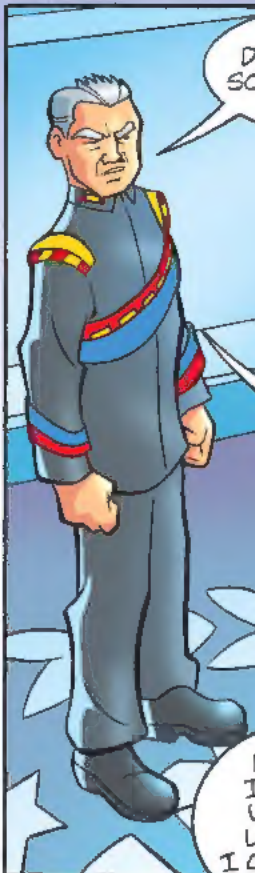
EXACTLY. I HAVE BEEN IN STORAGE FOR OVER A YEAR. I WAS DESIGNED TO DESTROY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. WHY IS MY FIRST MISSION NOT TO DESTROY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG?



BECAUSE THE RODENT IS MINE! NOW DO AS YOU'RE TOLD OR I'LL PUT YOU BACK INTO STORAGE FOR ANOTHER DECADE!



YOU DEPLOY AS SOON AS YOU'RE PREPARED.



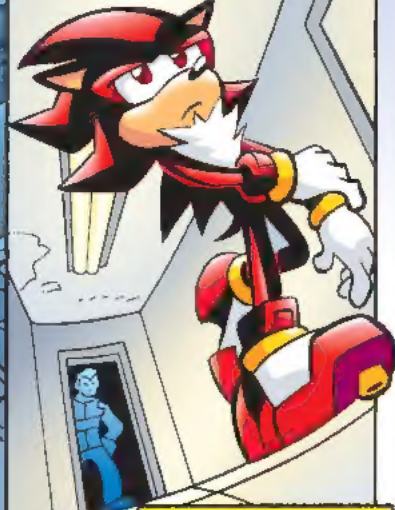
I'M ON MY WAY TO THE HANGAR, THEN.

YOU DON'T WANT ANY SUPPORT?

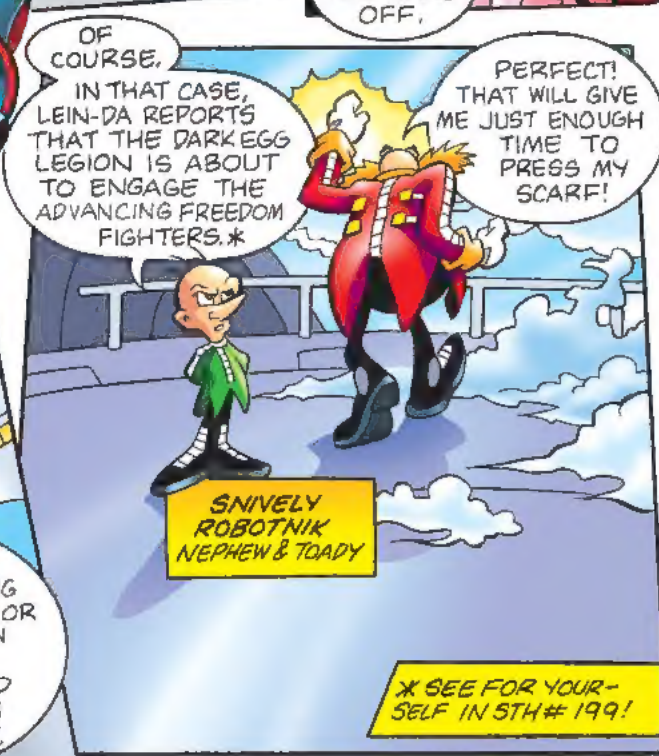
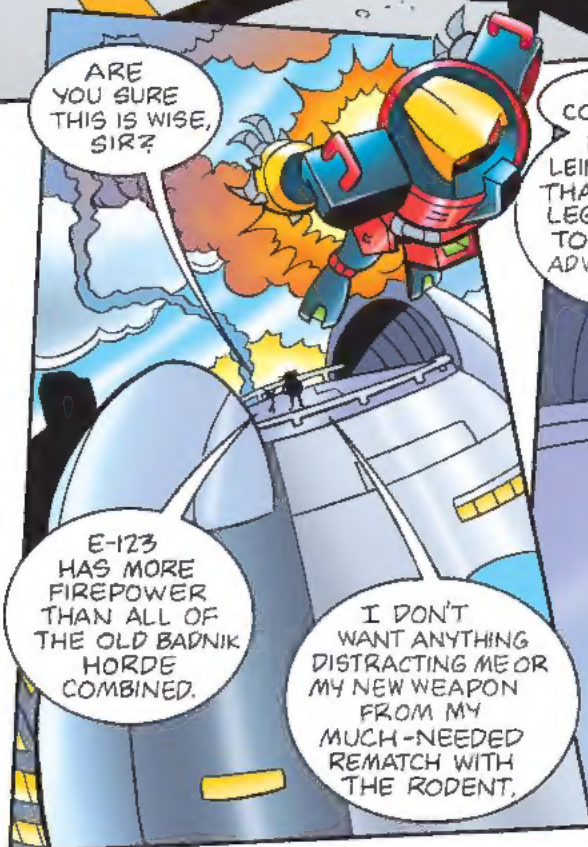
PLEASE. I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. I CAN HANDLE THIS ALONE.



THAT, AND AFTER MY FAILING TO SAVE METAL SONIC,* I NEED TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I CAN DO THIS. I WILL NOT LET ANOTHER LIVING WEAPON BE LOST.



***HURRY AND GRAB SONIC UNIVERSE#1 BEFORE IT SELLS OUT!**



HOURS
LATER

IT'S
ABOUT
TIME.

WE'RE
OVER
THE
DROP
ZONE!

BAD
TIME
TO
FIND
OUT
IF
YOU'RE
AFRAID
OF
HEIGHTS.

STOP TRYING
TO BE FUNNY.
YOU'RE FAILING.

FINE, FINE.
GET YOUR CHUTE
AND...

I DON'T
NEED ONE.



FWUMP



FWUMP

THESE TRACKS LOOK LIKE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED BY GAMMA. IN ITS CONDITION, IT WAS PROBABLY MOVING DOWNHILL FOR EASE.



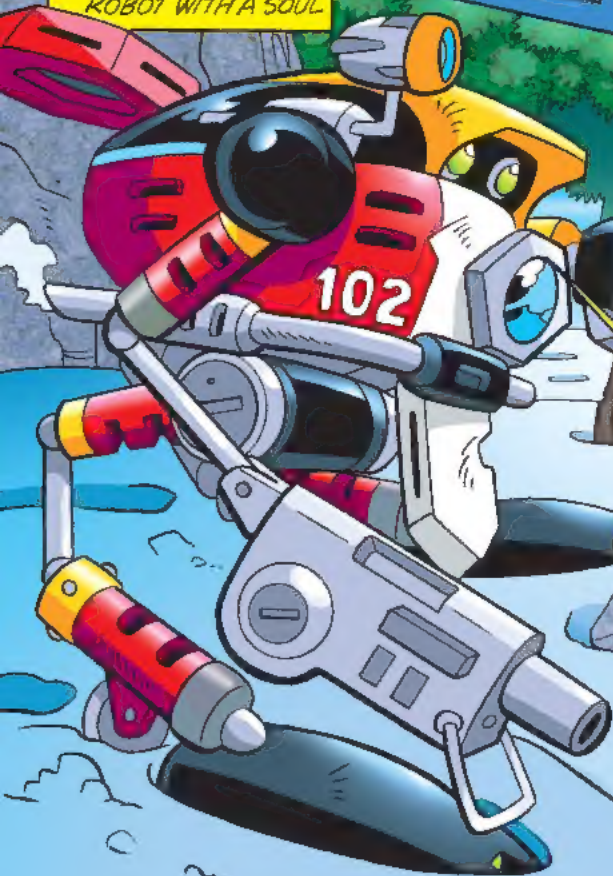
FOR AN ELITE KILLING MACHINE, IT'S DONE A TERRIBLE JOB OF COVERING ITS TRACKS.



SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG, CREATED BY PROFESSOR GERALD ROBOTNIK. ON FILE AS SERVING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.



E-102 "GAMMA" ROBOT WITH A SOUL



ALSO ON FILE AS REBELLING. NOW CONSIDERED PRIORITY-ONE STATUS. SURPRISINGLY GULLIBLE FOR MY TRACKS-IN-THE-SNOW TRAP.




HELLO, GAMMA.



I APPRECIATE YOU NOT BLOWING MY HEAD OFF.

YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF THE DOCTOR'S. YOU ARE CONSIDERED FRIENDLY, BUT I TRAVEL ALONE. ASSISTANCE WOULD ONLY SLOW ME DOWN.



I ONCE THOUGHT THE SAME. COME WITH ME. JOIN G.U.N. SEE WHAT A DIFFERENCE A SUPPORT TEAM CAN MAKE.

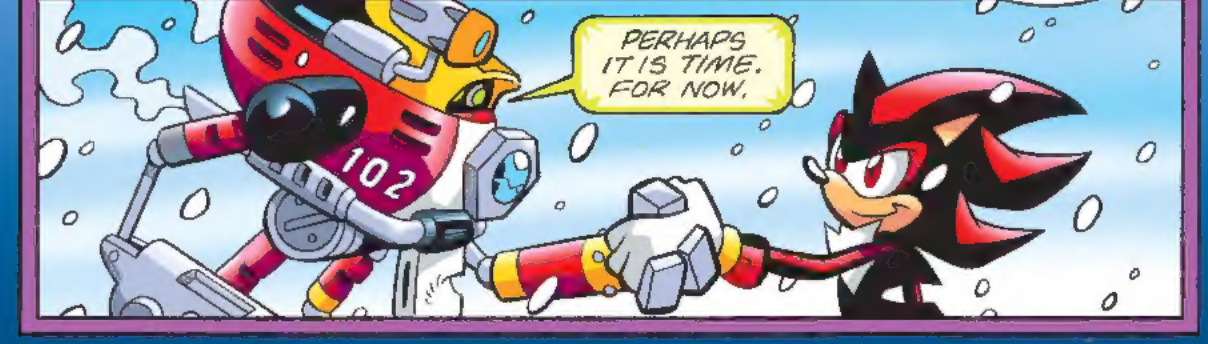
THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATION. YOU SERVE THE UNITED FEDERATION NOW? THAT IS SURPRISING.

OH?

I DOWNLOADED YOUR FILE. YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. WHAT COULD I, OR ANYONE ELSE, OFFER YOU?



A SAFE PLACE TO REST, WHEN I NEED IT. INFORMATION, SO MY TIME ISN'T WASTED SEARCHING. ACCESS TO THE WORLD WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY. YOU CAN MAKE AN EVEN GREATER DIFFERENCE.



PERHAPS IT IS TIME. FOR NOW.



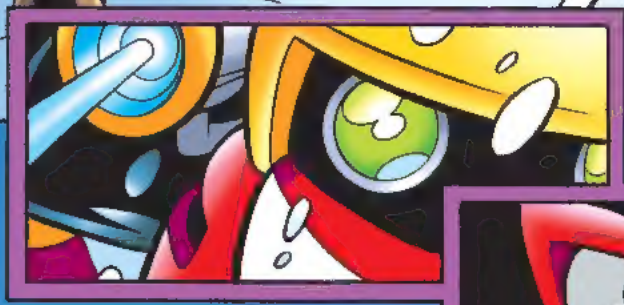
THE EXTRACTION POINT IS JUST A FEW MILES SOUTH. THEY'LL HAVE YOU REPAIRED AND RESTOCKED, THEN--



HOSTILE PRESENCE DETECTED. CONFIRMED EGGMAN EMPIRE RADIO SIGNATURE.

NOT NOW! WHERE IS IT?

SCANNING...



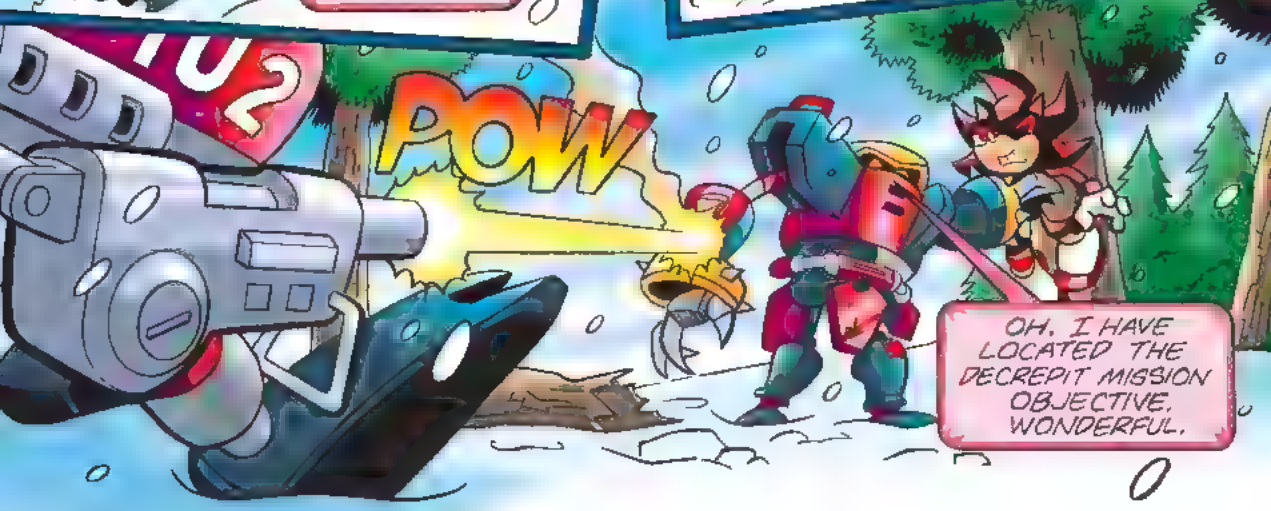
Where--?



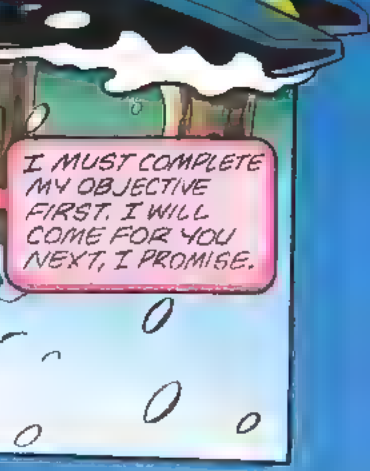
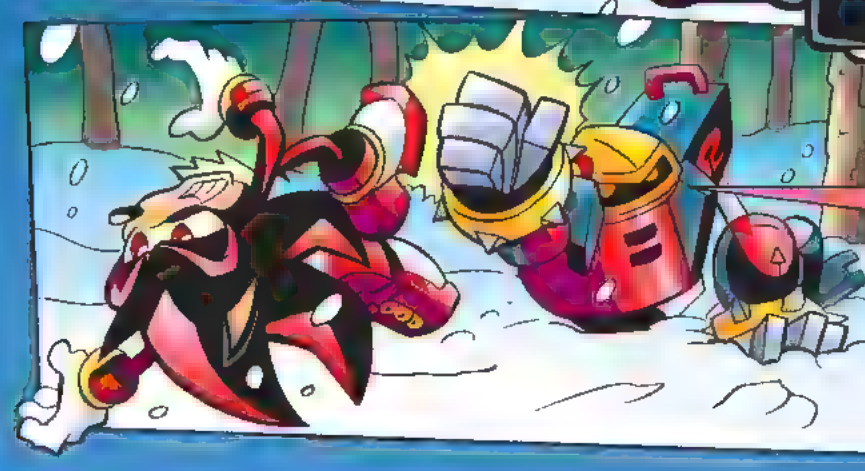
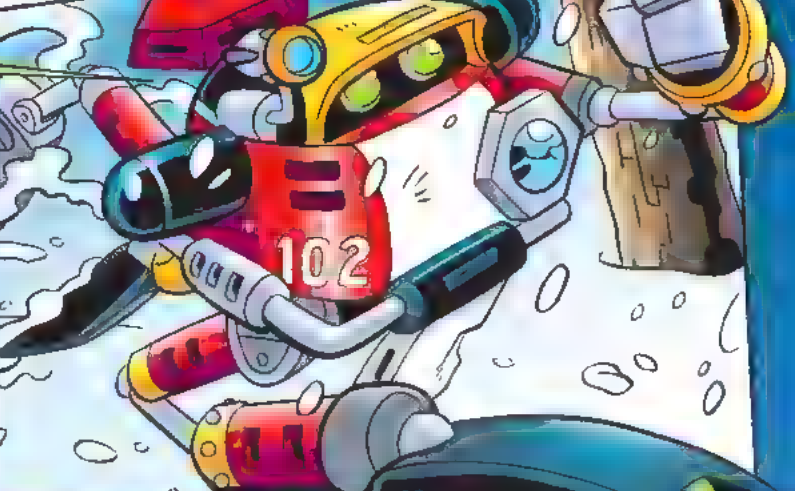
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG?!

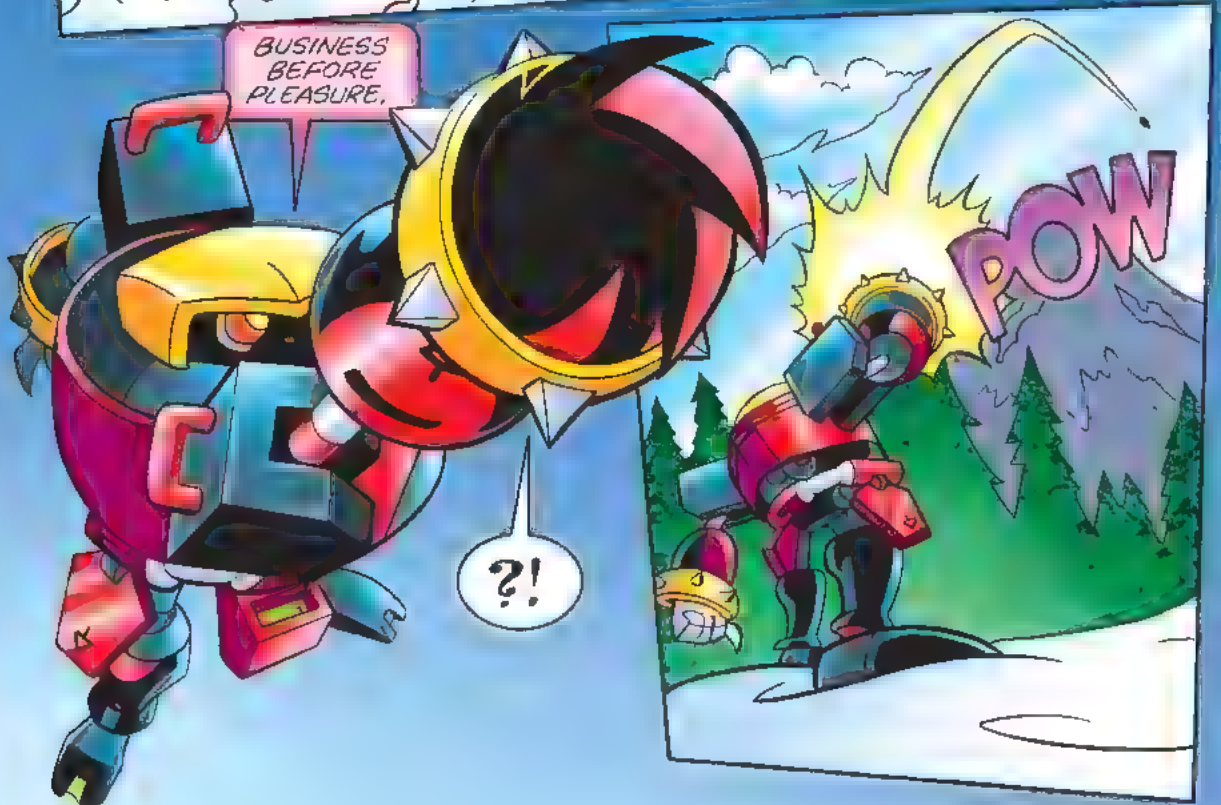


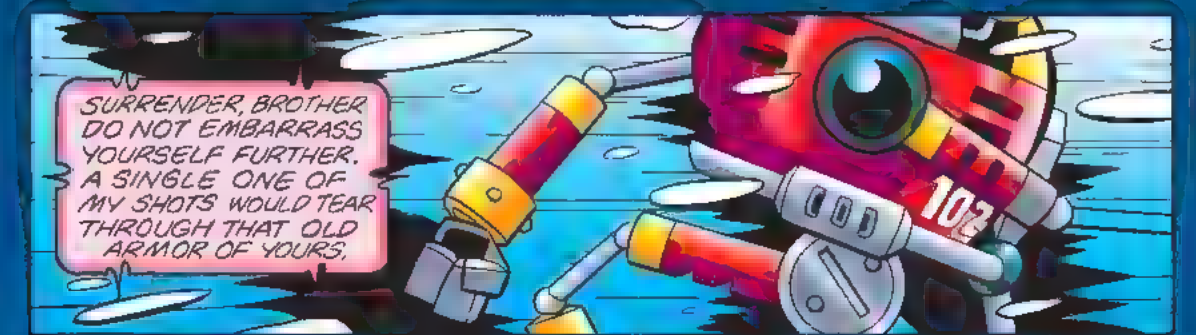
EVEN STRONGER THAN SONIC! A TRUE TEST FOR MY MIGHT!




OH, I HAVE LOCATED THE DECRETIT MISSION OBJECTIVE, WONDERFUL.



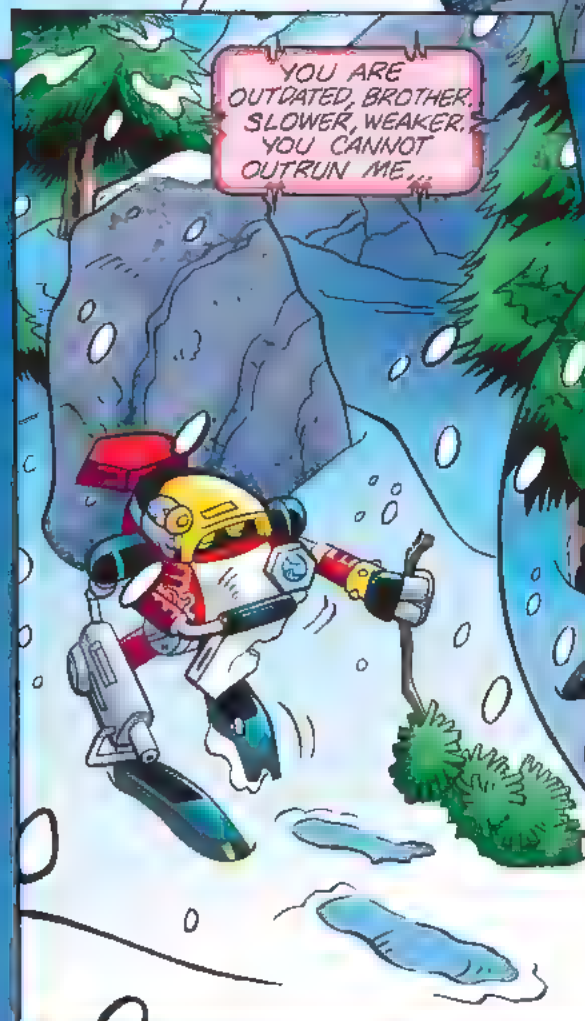




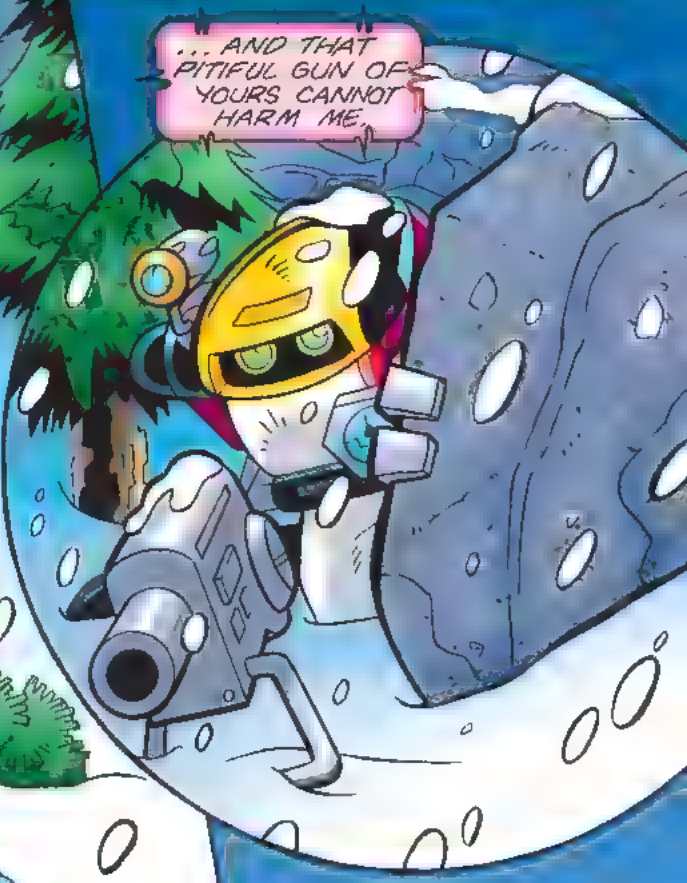
SURRENDER, BROTHER.
DO NOT EMBARRASS
YOURSELF FURTHER.
A SINGLE ONE OF
MY SHOTS WOULD TEAR
THROUGH THAT OLD
ARMOR OF YOURS.



I DETECT SMOKE IS
THAT YOUR GRAV-LINKED
JET DISK? PATHETIC.
YOU WOULD NOT GET
FAR WITH IT, EVEN IF
IT WERE IN PERFECT
CONDITION.



YOU ARE
OUTDATED, BROTHER.
SLOWER, WEAKER.
YOU CANNOT
OUTRUN ME...



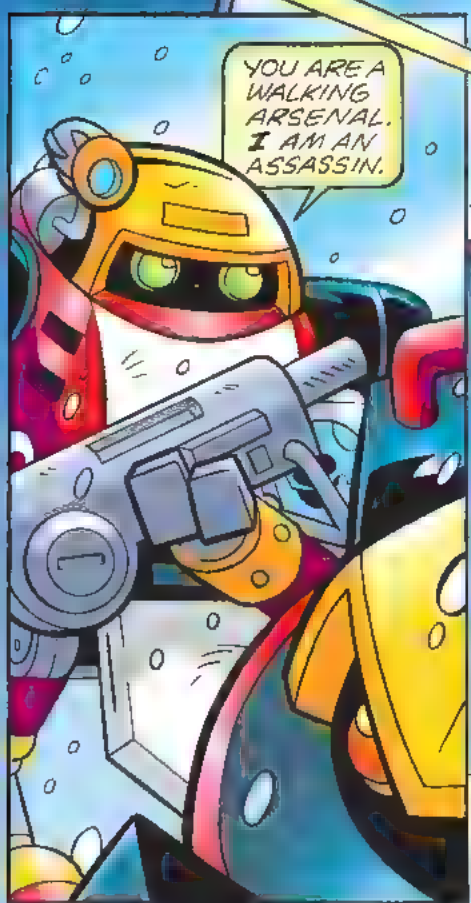
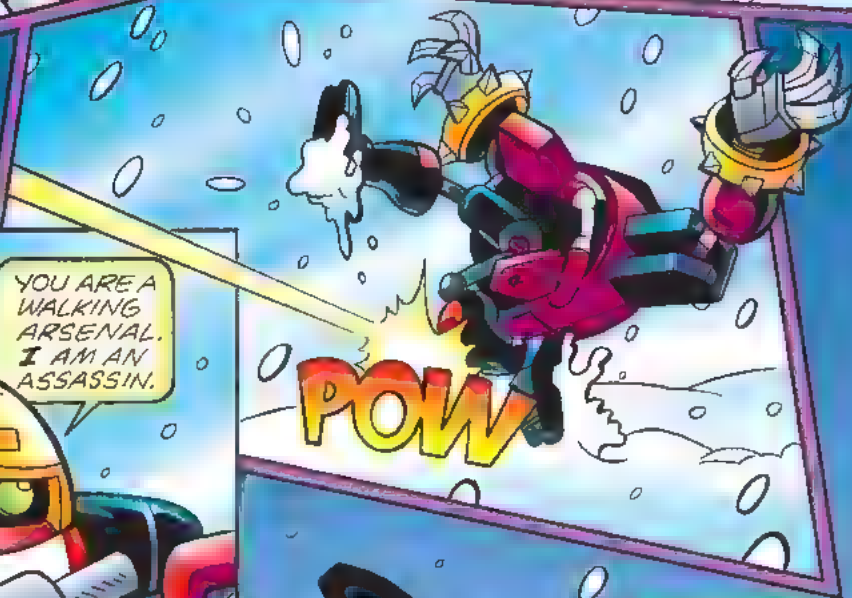
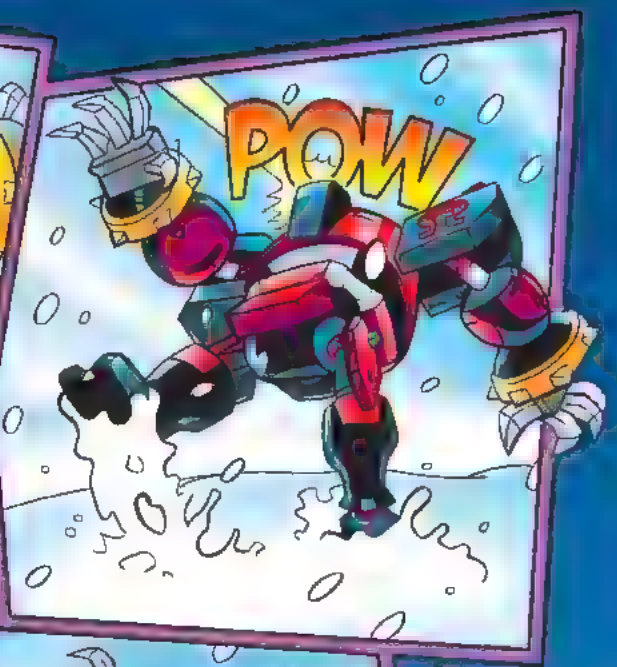
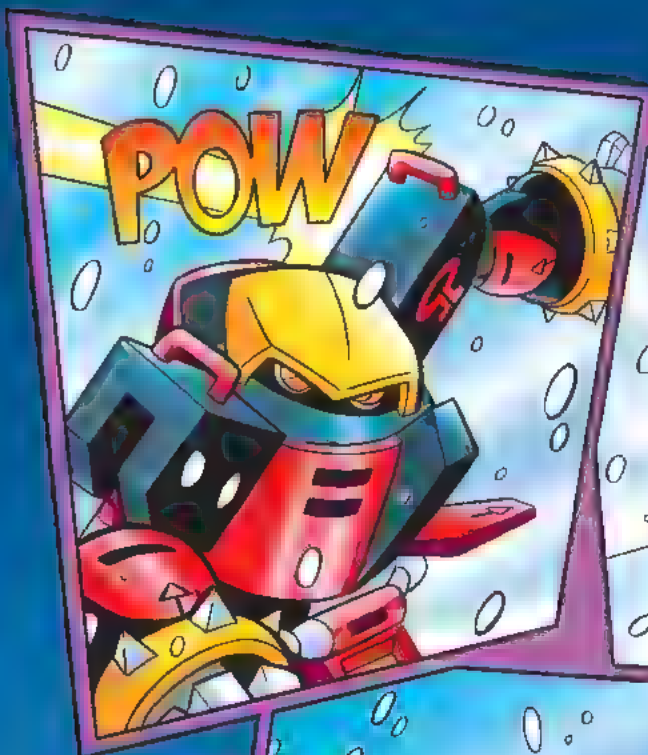
... AND THAT
PITIFUL GUN OF
YOURS CANNOT
HARM ME.

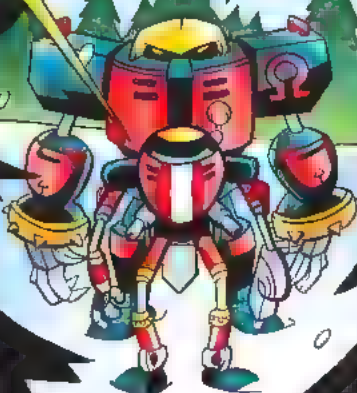
E-123,
CODENAME OMEGA.
THE LAST OF MY LINE
I DOWNLOADED
YOUR FILE.

YOUR ARMOR
IS HEAVY-- BUT SO
ARE YOU. YOUR
SPEED IS GREAT-- BUT
YOU'RE UNWILDY. YOUR
JETS ARE STRONGER--
BUT YOU'RE
LOUDER.

I DO NOT
HAVE SUCH
LIMITATIONS.
I AM NIMBLE.
I COVER GROUND
MORE EASILY.


AS FOR
WEAPONRY...



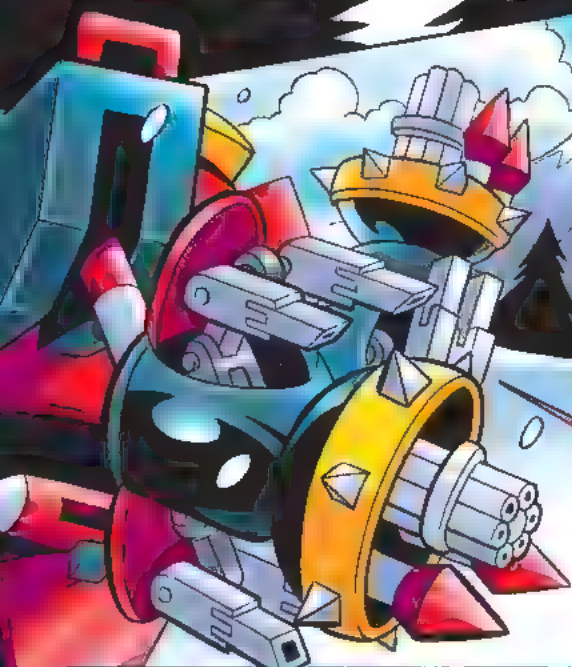


SO HAVE YOU,
I AM OUTDATED.
THE RESISTANCE
FORCES NEED
SOMETHING
MORE.

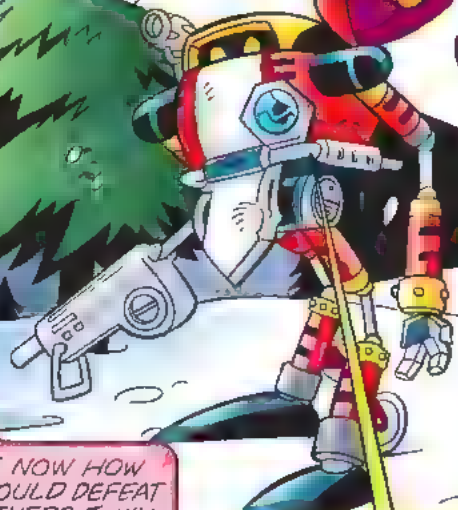
YOU
SURRENDER?
FINALLY.




HOLD ON,
GAMMA! I'M
COMING!



I SEE NOW HOW
YOU COULD DEFEAT
THE OTHERS. I WILL
GIVE YOU A
GLORIOUS
DESTRUCTION!



YOU WILL NEVER
DESTROY ALL OF
ME, BROTHER.



YOU CANNOT
DESTROY MY
SOUL.

WE ARE ROBOTS.
WE DON'T
HAVE THOSE.

WE CAN
HAVE THEM.
AND I WILL
SHOW YOU.

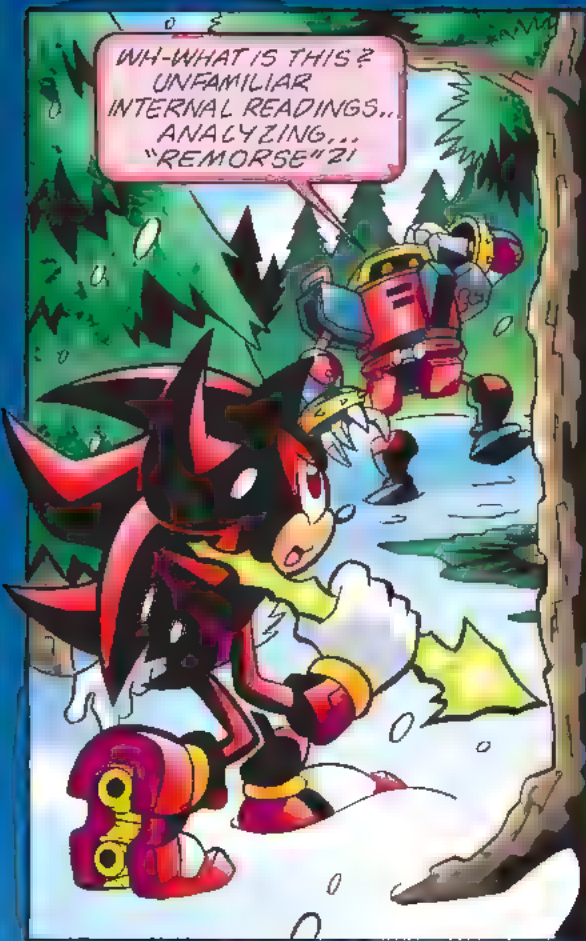
TARGET
ACQUIRED.
FULL
BARRAGE!

DATA-STREAM
ACQUIRED.
UPLOAD
COMPLETE.

NO!!!

CHATT
CHATTACHKAN
BOOM





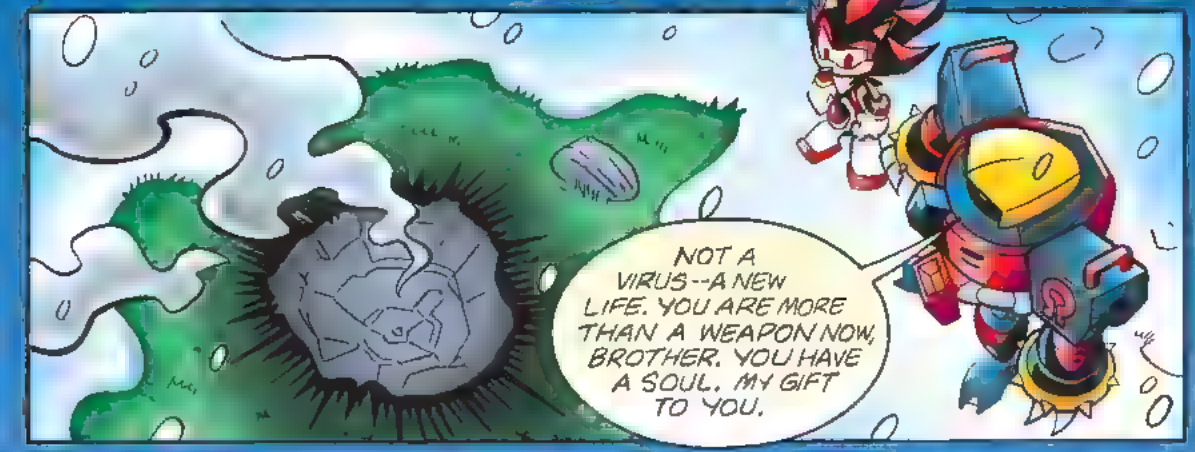
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
UNFAMILIAR
INTERNAL READINGS...
ANALYZING...
"REMORSE" ZI




... GAMMA?

YES AND
NO I ISOLATED
THE CODING I
DEVELOPED WHEN
I GAINED MY
OWN WILL AND
SENT IT TO
OMEGA.

VIRUS
ALERT!
PURGE!
PURGE!

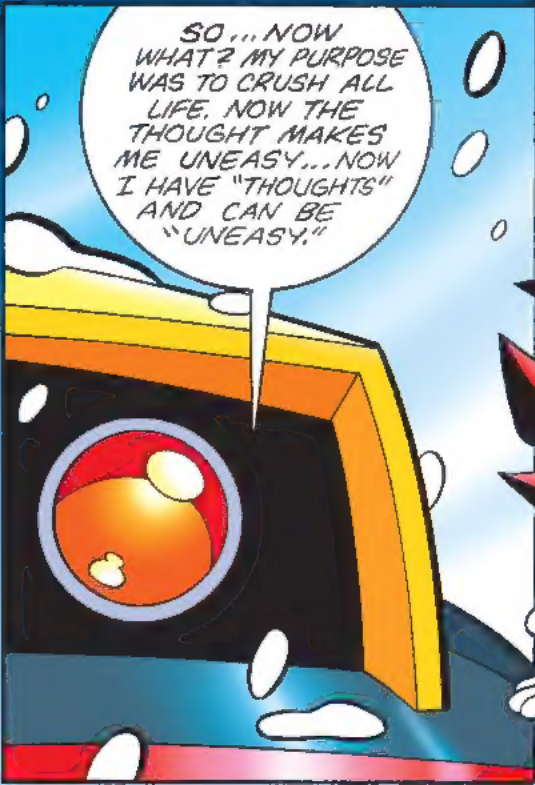


NOT A
VIRUS--A NEW
LIFE. YOU ARE MORE
THAN A WEAPON NOW,
BROTHER. YOU HAVE
A SOUL. MY GIFT
TO YOU.




AS MY CODE
INTEGRATES,
"GAMMA" MAY
DISAPPEAR--

--BUT MY
MISSION
LIVES ON.




SO... NOW
WHAT? MY PURPOSE
WAS TO CRUSH ALL
LIFE. NOW THE
THOUGHT MAKES
ME UNEASY... NOW
I HAVE "THOUGHTS"
AND CAN BE
"UNEASY."




DO WHAT
GAMMA WOULD,
JOIN G.U.N.
HELP ME PROTECT
ALL LIFE INSTEAD
OF...

CRUSH,
MAIM AND
DESTROY?

...YES.



BUT TO WHAT
END? IF I HAVE
A LIFE NOW, WHAT IS
ITS PURPOSE? WHERE
DO I FIND A PLACE IN
A WORLD I WAS MEANT
TO COVER IN GLORIOUS
FIRE AND DOOM?



LIVING
IS NOT EASY.
UNTIL THEN, YOU
CAN FIND A TEMPORARY
PURPOSE IN INTRODUCING
THE DOCTOR TO
THAT "FIRE
AND DOOM!"

OF COURSE!
REVENGE FOR
WASTING MY
POTENTIAL!

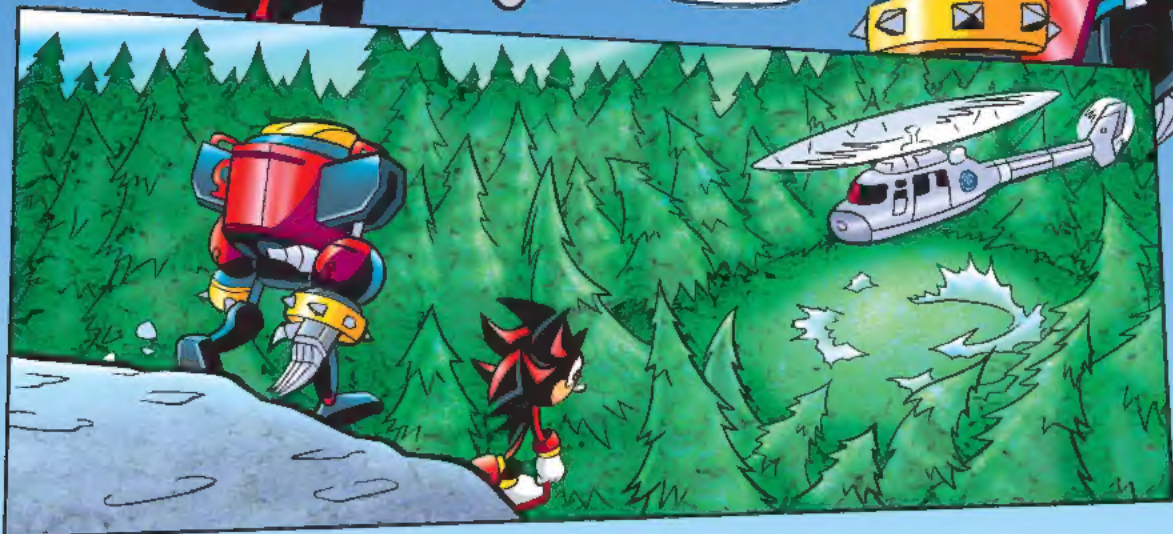
SHORT
MOMENT
LATER...

IF YOU
TELL ANYONE
IN G.U.N. I MADE
A GRAVE MARKER,
OR WHINED ABOUT
MY PLACE IN THE
WORLD, I WILL
TURN YOU INTO
LINKED
SAUSAGE.

SO YOU
ACCEPT MY
OFFER?

YES.
THE MISSION--
MY MISSION--
MUST
CONTINUE.

THIS IS
AGENT SHADOW.
MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED.
REQUESTING
PICK-UP.



LATER--
G.U.N. HQ--
REC ROOM

HOPE KINTOBOR
PRODIGY
MECHANIST

... AND
THEN WE FOUND
THAT HALF HIS
WEIGHT IS IN
AMMO! OMEGA'S
A MONSTER!

SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
MADE QUITE
THE CATCH,
SHADOW.

ROUGE
THE BAT
SUPER SPY

Hmph.

THAT'S TWO
LIVING WEAPONS LOST
UNDER MY WATCH. OMEGA
MAY BE AN ACCEPTABLE
"REPLACEMENT" IN THE
COMMANDER'S EYES, BUT
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE
FACT THAT GAMMA'S
GONE.

WOULD YOU
LISTEN TO THIS GUY?
MOPE-MOPE-MOPE!

OH, COME
ON, ROUGE,
GIVE HIM A
BREAK--


DID YOU
BRING THE
ORDERS,
KIDDO?

OH!
YEP!

HERE
YOU
GO!

WHAT
ORDERS?

LOOKS LIKE
KID-GENIUS HERE
GOT HER
ZONE-BREACHING
PLATFORM IN
PROPER
WORKING
ORDER.



SO
THAT
MEANS...

THAT'S RIGHT,
HANDSOME. WE'RE
HEADING TO THE
SPECIAL ZONE.
THE COMMANDER
WANTS ANOTHER
*CHAOS
EMERALD!*

Rest in peace, Gamma—but your mission lives on!

Can Shadow really reach the Special Zone?

More importantly—can he survive long enough to get a Chaos Emerald?

Sonic Universe #4 unveils

TEAM DARK!